

live, we have 0.9 physicians. Anywhere else in California, for every 1,000 people, there are 2.2 physicians, twice as many physicians.

While this is an important part of improving healthcare, we also need to get medical schools. That is something that I have worked on. I have worked on trying to get additional medical schools not only across the country but in the San Joaquin Valley.

We know that if you get a medical school there, it provides an opportunity for students who graduate from that medical school to practice in the area in which they have graduated.

We have proof of that. We have residency programs that I have been very supportive of with the University of California, San Francisco, UCSF, which has over 280 residents who are being trained in the valley right now. Over half of those physicians over the last 40 years who have graduated from that residency program have stayed to practice in our valley. So a medical school is an important part of an overall strategy.

As Blue Dogs, we want to continue to support expanded healthcare throughout our rural areas. This is something I believe Democrats and Republicans can come together on in a bipartisan manner.

These are many ways in which we can work to ensure that rural America gets reliable, affordable healthcare that they deserve, like every other American. That is why Blue Dogs are speaking out on this issue today.

Since taking office, this administration, sadly, has made repeated efforts to eliminate the Affordable Care Act without putting anything in its place. That makes no sense. That makes no sense whatsoever.

Just this week, we voted on a continuing resolution to keep government open for the next 6 weeks. We should have a real budget in place at this time. It is irresponsible to ever, as the President did earlier this year, shut down government. But in this continuing resolution, we have funding to ensure that our community health centers keep receiving the funding they need to stay open and serve their patients.

This year alone, Congress has voted on 10 different proposals to improve healthcare and stabilize the Affordable Care Act for American families. They are over in the Senate right now. Sadly, instead of taking action, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL refuses to bring up these good measures.

We could be lowering the cost of prescription drugs, which affects all Americans, whether you live in rural areas or urban areas, and ensuring that we protect those who have preexisting conditions, preexisting conditions of heart disease, cancer, diabetes.

These bills, sadly, are collecting dust on the majority leader's desk.

I want to close by saying, as a 15-year member of the Blue Dog Coalition, our caucus stands together to try to improve healthcare for all Americans.

For those of us who represent rural America, like Congressman O'HALLERAN, myself, and many others, it is important to note that we must improve our healthcare system for the people who live in our rural areas.

It is time for the Senate to do their job and pass these important bills.

We will continue to work to try to expand access to healthcare in rural areas with our clinics and to create medical schools in areas that are significantly underserved.

While we continue to patiently ask the Senate to act, I know the Blue Dogs will continue to advocate for policies that improve access to healthcare for all Americans, especially for those rural Americans we represent.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership in this important area as the legislative chair for the Blue Dog caucus. The citizens of Arizona are fortunate to have a good Representative.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, California is, too.

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman again, and I wish him a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Madam Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues for joining me to participate in this important show of support by the Blue Dog caucus for rural healthcare and access across America today.

A couple of quick examples: First of all, when you are traveling across the country from urban America through rural America, this hospital issue, this medical issue, is your issue because the hospitals that we have are the hospitals you are going to be taken to. The ambulances that have to take an hour or 2 hours to get to the site where you are at are the ambulances that you are going to be taking, too.

People on dialysis in rural America, whether it is a Tribal community or another community in rural America, some of them have to drive 2 hours one way to get their treatment and then 2 hours back home. Sometimes they do 3 days a week, sometimes up to 4 days a week, sick people traveling hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of miles to get this type of treatment so they can live.

Cancer is the same way. Cancer patients have to find a way to get that treatment. It is very scarce in rural America.

Rural communities make up the very fabric of America. Their success is our Nation's success.

I am committed to fighting to improve access to healthcare for rural, Tribal, and other underserved communities, for hardworking families and veterans who often travel hundreds of miles for basic care.

As I stated before, my district is rural for the most part, and we have 60,000 veterans within the district.

For rural healthcare to be totally successful, we must improve broadband and expand it so that telemedicine is meaningful for the people who live in rural areas across America.

Improving access to care is not a partisan issue. We must come together across the aisle and continue to work to identify legislative solutions to the barriers our rural residents face.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to pass without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 75. Concurrent resolution directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 3055.

The message also announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3055) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes."

□ 1330

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark Global Entrepreneurship Week, where all across the globe cities will be hosting events that will inspire millions to explore their potential as an entrepreneur while fostering connections and increasing collaborations within their communities.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the engines of our economy in Arkansas and across our country. They support millions of jobs in this Nation. They create and support jobs within their local communities and employ approximately half the private-sector workers in the United States.

As a co-chairman and founder of the House Entrepreneurship Caucus, I am proud to celebrate the visionary men and women who boldly pursue their passion to build the growth businesses that fuel our economy.

The United States has served as a global beacon of innovation, delivering remarkable new products and services that improve the lives of all Americans. Today, over 99 percent of U.S. employers are small businesses that create 57 million jobs that generate 44 percent of our economic activity.

The spirit of the startup is built into our American DNA. Our country is home to the world's greatest inventions, companies, and technological advances because we believe that anyone with a good idea and determination can build a business that changes the world.